

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SENDING LOW RATE DATA ON A  
PACKET BASIS IN AN 8-VSB STANDARD DATA PACKET STREAM**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5           There is disclosed a system and method for sending low rate  
data on a packet basis in an 8-VSB standard data packet stream. The  
system of the invention comprises an 8-VSB signal transmitter that  
is capable of transmitting either standard full rate data packets  
or low rate data packets. A low rate data packet contains less data  
10   than is normally contained in a standard data full rate data  
packet. Each data byte in a low rate data packet contains  
information bearing bits and non-information bearing bits. The  
system is capable of assigning appropriate bit values to the non-  
information bearing bits in each data byte of a low rate data  
15   packet so that each low rate data packet will be properly encoded  
for transmission within an 8-VSB standard data packet stream. High  
definition television signals composed of low rate data packets  
possess increased resistance to noise and multipath channels.